

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 198

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN

FISHING/CRABS: Increases fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:305(B)(2) and (C)(1), relative to commercial crab fishing; to
3 increase the fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery; to increase the
4 dedications to certain accounts from the funds collected by the crab trap gear license;
5 to establish an exception to the senior commercial fishing license exemption; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:305(B)(2) and (C)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §305. Commercial gear license; issuance to certain nonresidents prohibited;
11 moratorium on certain new gear licenses; renewals

12 * * *

13 B. Residents shall pay a commercial gear fee as follows:

14 * * *

15 (2) Crab traps: ~~thirty-five~~ fifty dollars to use any legal number of crab traps
16 for the privilege of using crab traps to fish commercially. An amount equal to ~~five~~
17 ten dollars from each commercial crab trap gear license shall be credited to the
18 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account as provided in R.S. 56:10(B)(13), and
19 an amount equal to ~~five~~ ten dollars from each commercial crab trap license shall be
20 credited to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account as provided in R.S.
21 56:10(B)(1)(e). Any resident who holds a senior commercial fishing license shall

1 be exempt from the provisions of this Paragraph. However, any person who holds
2 a senior commercial fishing license shall not be exempt from payment for a buoy tag.

3 * * *

4 C.(1)(i) The commercial gear fee for nonresidents is four times the gear fee
5 for residents; however, the nonresident fee for oyster dredges and tongs in particular
6 shall be eight times the fee for residents.

7 (ii) An amount equal to ~~twenty~~ forty dollars for each nonresident
8 commercial crab trap gear license shall be credited to the Derelict Crab Trap
9 Removal Program Account as provided in R.S. 56:10(B)(13), and an amount
10 equal to ~~twenty~~ forty dollars from each commercial crab trap gear license
11 shall be credited to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account as provided
12 in R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(e).

13 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 198 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

St. Germain

Abstract: Increases the fees for participation in the commercial crab fishery and increases the dedications to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account.

Present law provides for a \$35 commercial crab trap gear license fee for any number of legal crab traps. Dedicates \$5 from each license to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and \$5 to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account. Exempts residents who hold a senior commercial fishing license.

Proposed law increases the gear license fee from \$35 to \$50. Increases the two dedications from \$5 to \$10 each. Specifies that while holders of a commercial senior fishing license are exempt from the gear fee, they are not exempt from the tag fee.

Present law provides for a nonresident gear fee equal to four times the resident rate. In this case, the nonresident gear fee for crab traps is \$140. Dedicates \$20 from each license to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and \$20 to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account. Exempts residents who hold a senior commercial fishing license.

Proposed law leaves the nonresident rate at four times the resident rate which would become \$200 per year and increases the dedications to each program from \$20 to \$40.

(Amends R.S. 56:305(B)(2) and (C)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Increase nonresident crab trap gear license fee from \$140 per year to \$200 per year.
2. Increase the dedications of revenue from the nonresident gear fee to the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account and the Crab Promotion and Marketing Account from \$20 to \$40.
3. Remove authorization for a buoy tagging system for identification of the crab trap owners.